Claims:

1 A compound of the formula (I):

$$R^1R^2N\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CHO[(AO)_{m1}R^4]\text{-}CH_2\text{-}OR^3 \quad (I)$$

where

R^1 is an alkoxylated polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl group; or

R^2 is independently a group as defined for R^1; hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl; alkoxyalkyl; optionally end-capped alkoxylated hydroxyalkyl; or

R^2 is a group of the formula: $-CH_2-CHO[(AO)_{m1}R^4]-CH_2-OR^3$ where AO, m1, R^4 and R^3 are each independently as defined below;

R^3 is hydrocarbyl, usually C_6 to C_{30}, particularly C_8 to C_{30}, more particularly C_{10} to C_{20}, especially alkyl, alkenyl, alkaryl, aryl or aralkyl;

each AO is independently an alkyleneoxy group, particularly a C_2 to C_4 alkyleneoxy group, especially a C_2 or C_3 alkyleneoxy group, or a mixture of C_2 and C_3 alkyleneoxy groups;

m1 is from 0 to 50 , but usually at least 0.1, and desirably from 0.5 to 20; and

R^4 is hydrogen, or alkyl;

such that the average total number of alkyleneoxy groups in the molecule is at least 3.

2 An alkoxylated compound of the formula (II)

$$R^{1a}R^{2a}N\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CHOH\text{-}CH_2\text{-}OR^3 \quad (II)$$

where

R^{1a} is a polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl group;

R^{2a} is independently a group as defined for R^{1a}, or is hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl or alkoxyalkyl or hydroxyalkyl, or is a group of the formula: $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-OR^3$ where R^3 is hydrocarbyl,

in which the average total number of alkyleneoxy groups in the molecule is at least 3.

3 A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^1 is a group of the formula (III):

$$-R^5[-O(AO)_{m3}\text{-}R^6]_n \quad (III)$$

where

R^5 is the residue of a hydrocarbyl group;

R^6 is hydrogen, or alkyl;

AO is an alkyleneoxy group;

m3 is an average value of from 1 to 20; and

n is from 3 to 10.

4 A compound as claimed in claim 3 wherein R^5 is the residue (notionally obtained by removing hydroxyl groups from the parent group) of a polyhydroxy alkyl group having a linear C_4 to C_7 chain.

5 A compound as claimed in either claim 3 or claim 4 wherein n is from 3 to 6

6 A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2 to 4 wherein R^2 is an alkyl group and R^3 is a C_{10} to C_{30} alkyl, alkenyl, alkaryl, aryl or aralkyl group.

7 A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2 to 5 wherein the alkyleneoxy group(s) AO is(are) ethyleneoxy, propyleneoxy or mixtures of ethyleneoxy and propyleneoxy groups.

8 A compound as claimed in claim 6 wherein the total number of alkyleneoxy groups in the compound of the formula (I) is from 5 to 30.

9 An agrochemical composition including as adjuvant a compound of the formula (I) as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.

10 A composition as claimed in claims 9 wherein the agrochemically active compound is one or more plant growth regulators, herbicides, and/or pesticides, for example insecticides, fungicides, acaricides, nematocides, miticides, rodenticides, bactericides, molluscicides and/or bird repellants.

11 A composition as claimed in claim 9 wherein the agrochemically active compound is or includes at least one water soluble herbicide.

12 A composition as claimed in claim 10 wherein the water soluble herbicide is or includes at least one phosphonomethyl glycine; at least one phosphinyl amino acid; and/or at least one bipyridinium compound.

13 A composition as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12 which additionally includes at least one further surfactant.

14 A composition as claimed in claim 13 which additionally includes at least one alkylpolysaccharide surfactant.

15 A method of treating vegetation by applying to plants and/or soil a composition as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14.

16 A method of killing or inhibiting vegetation by applying a formulation as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14 which includes one or more growth regulators and/or herbicides and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 as an adjuvant.

17 A method of killing plant pests by applying a formulation as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14 which includes one or more pesticides, fungicides or acaricides, and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 as an adjuvant.